

# fishinglines

The magazine of Victoria's Peak Recreational Fishing Body

WINTER 2012

Making the Most  
of Winter Fishing  
Autumn Colours  
Cook your Catch  
Where is the Wood?  
We Fish, We Care

# THE NEW VICTORIAN MARINE SAFETY ACT HAS ARRIVED



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**The Marine Safety Act 2010 (Vic) took effect on 1 July 2012. It ensures that everyone involved in boating activities shares a common safety focus.**

This new legislation, which replaces the *Marine Act 1988 (Vic)*, introduces a number of changes and new responsibilities for recreational boaters in Victoria.

**Safety duties**

A new concept that safety on the water is a shared responsibility and that everyone must take reasonable care to protect themselves and others. You have a 'shared responsibility' for marine safety if you are:

- an owner of a vessel
- a person involved in recreational boating activities (a master, operator or passenger)
- a person who designs, supplies or modifies vessels, marine safety equipment or infrastructure
- a member of the public.

Your responsibility for safety depends on the activity, the risks involved in that activity and your capacity to control those risks.

**Owner onus**

This ensures that those responsible for a maritime offence are held accountable for their actions. This means that if an offence is committed by someone operating a vessel, other than the owner, and that person cannot be identified, then

the owner of that vessel will generally be liable, unless they can establish who was responsible. This applies when a person breaks any waterway rule when operating a vessel.

**Licensing**

A boat operator license is now known as a 'marine license' and a person who is the master of a vessel must hold a marine licence. There are two types for those who satisfy the requirements:

- a general marine license - for those aged 16 and older
- a restricted marine license - for those at least 12 years old. Once they turn 16, the license becomes a general marine license.

**Registration**

The person who registers a vessel must be 14 years of age or older.

**What is Transport Safety Victoria's role?**

Transport Safety Victoria (TSV) is the State's safety regulator for bus, maritime and rail transport. We are responsible for administering the new Marine Safety Act.

**For more information visit our website at [www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au](http://www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au) and subscribe to our email alerts.**

**You can also follow us on Twitter @MaritimeTSV.**



**Fishing Lines**

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# Welcome



Welcome to the winter 2012 issue of *Fishing Lines*, the magazine of VRFish.

We launched our last issue in March at our Statewide Forum in Shepparton, a pivotal event for our organisation. Our Statewide Forum provided an opportunity to play a vital part in the future direction

**Our Statewide Forum provided an opportunity to play a vital part in the future direction of Victorian recreational fishing and how we manage our activity in a sustainable manner.**

of Victorian recreational fishing and how we manage our activity in a sustainable manner. I would like to thank all attendees for coming- many fishers came from far-flung destinations across Victoria. Their commitment as volunteers to VRFish and to the improvement of recreational fishing in Victoria is greatly appreciated.

The purpose of the forum was to set the strategic direction for VRFish for the next five years and beyond, review our current performance and set targets and milestones for the future, look for improved ways to engage with our stakeholders, develop innovative ways to manage our fisheries better in the future and finally to set a strong foundation for the future of VRFish and Victorian recreational fishing.

The forum allowed a series of very constructive conversations concerning what we want from our pursuit, how we

value it, how we grow the fish resource, how we increase membership, how we become more inclusive and how we manage our environmental footprint in a sustainable manner. In short, we were looking for inspirational thinking to enable our organisation to grow and become an even more valuable advocacy agent for Victorian recreational fishers. The resultant document, our Strategic Plan, as highlighted on pages 6 and 7, provides an outcome of the weekend's deliberations and discussions, providing a framework for VRFish into the future.

As the peak body for the advocacy of recreational fishers in Victoria, VRFish works closely with community stakeholders to provide the government with the views and sentiments of the recreational fishing community across Victoria. We were extremely privileged to have three politicians in attendance at our weekend in Shepparton. The Hon Peter Walsh, Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, Hon Jeanette Powell, Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Dr Bill Sykes, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture and Food Security spoke to our attendees and provided invaluable insights to support our strategic planning process. Their contributions demonstrate the commitment that the Victorian government has for recreational fishers across Victoria. It was also very evident that the Victorian government recognises the importance of recreational fishing to Victoria and especially to regional areas where fishing activity has such a high social and economic contribution.

We had the opportunity to develop a vision that will give certainty to us and our children that recreational fishing will

**...we were looking for inspirational thinking to enable our organisation to grow and become an even more valuable advocacy agent for Victorian recreational fishers.**

be alive, well and strong – holding up many regional communities and that the generations to come will continue to have the opportunity to throw a line in the water and enjoy the great outdoors in a sustainable way. This will be our legacy to future generations, and I am delighted to present this vision to you.

## Tight Lines

**Russell Conway**  
Chair

Since the last issue of *Fishing Lines* we have been developing our next five year Strategic Plan, the focus of our very successful Statewide Forum held in Shepparton in March. The Statewide Forum was an opportunity for VRFish to bring all recreational fishers from across the state together to harness collective knowledge in developing our Strategic Plan. The importance of the development of this plan cannot be underestimated as it will form our work priorities for the next five years. This is a very exciting time for our organisation as we're looking to explore and grow many new areas.

I recently attended the first steering committee meeting for the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) Benefits project. The draft MDB plan has been quite controversial and has received a wide range of responses. Six months ago, recreational fishers weren't on the radar but after many months of hard work, we are now seen as a significant stakeholder of the MDB community contributing more than \$1.4 billion annually and 10,950 jobs.

VRFish attended two public forums to review the minimum legal size limits for dusky flathead and consider the introduction of a maximum size limit. Dusky flathead are a fast growing species which reach their current legal size of 27cm within 18 months. Male fish will grow to a maximum size of 55cm whereas female fish can grow to be significantly larger and do not start to breed until they reach around 55cm in length (approximately 5 years of age). There has been a decline in numbers of large mature fish in the population which has sparked suggestions to introduce a maximum size limit ensuring breeding females are kept to repopulate the species.

VRFish are expecting a proposal to come from Fisheries Victoria shortly and we will be consulting widely with our stakeholders to ensure that we properly represent their views.

As you native fishers will know, 100,000 Murray cod fingerlings were stocked into Kow Swamp as the first stage of the Victorian Northern Native Fisheries Project. In an additional bid to improve fisher access, VRFish Board member Rob Loats and Ben Scullin from the Boating Industry Association Victoria, spent a day in the area identifying potential points for improved fisher access. Eight boat ramps will be delivered to the Campaspe and Loddon rivers including the Gunbower Creek and Kow Swamp, with a total of 300,000 Murray cod planned to be released into Kow Swamp over the next 3 years.

VRFish has taken a leadership role in the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) conduct of an investigation into the outcomes of Victoria's existing marine protected areas. The purpose of this investigation is to examine and provide assessment of the performance and management of the marine protected areas along with identifying any ongoing challenges relating to biodiversity and effective management. VRFish view this as an opportunity to ensure the needs of the recreational fishing community are being represented and we have appointed a representative to this investigation.

Recently, VRFish responded to the Gippsland Boating Coastal Action Plan draft –recommending the draft be completely re-written with a greater focus on the importance of recreational fishing. We were unable to support the draft plan, as there was absolutely no acknowledgement that

fishing and boating in the Gippsland region was growing at a fantastic rate. In 2009, our Ernst & Young report into the economic contribution of recreational fishing in Victoria valued recreational fishing in the Gippsland region as \$172.9 million, in fishing tackle purchases alone! This does not take into account boat sales, accommodation, fuel and other expenses that rec fishers lay out when we go fishing. The plan does not address the issue of unmet needs and it doesn't take into account the expected growth in recreational fisher activity due to the presence of key species including arrow squid, snapper, sand and tiger flathead, barracouta, gummy and mako sharks, game species as well as a range of deepwater fish species. It doesn't reference the excellent work undertaken by Dallas D'Silva of Fisheries Victoria into the availability of newer potential recreational species such as mahi mahi, cobia, wahoo and broadbill swordfish that was published in the latest edition of FRDC's terrific publication "FISH". The major barrier to recreational fishers being able to take advantage of the current great fishery and the future bonanza is the limited access to infrastructure, including boat ramps and this is not being addressed by the Gippsland Coastal Board.

Finally, did you know that VRFish is on Facebook? To join in on the conversation and keep up to date with all our latest fishing tips just go to our Facebook page and click "like".

## Tight lines

**Christopher Collins**  
Executive Officer

# VRFish Strategic Plan 2012–2017

## Five Key Pillars

The VRFish Strategic vision is supported by five key pillars and is underpinned by our core values. VRFish is committed to producing the following outcomes:



## VRFish- Representing Your Interests

As the peak body representing a community of over 721,000 Victorians, VRFish works to provide fishers with support through facilitation, advocacy, education strategies and policy development. We consult broadly with the recreational fishing community to represent their views in an accurate and timely manner to Government and their agencies, as well as communicate effectively with the recreational fishers of Victoria.

### VRFish Charter

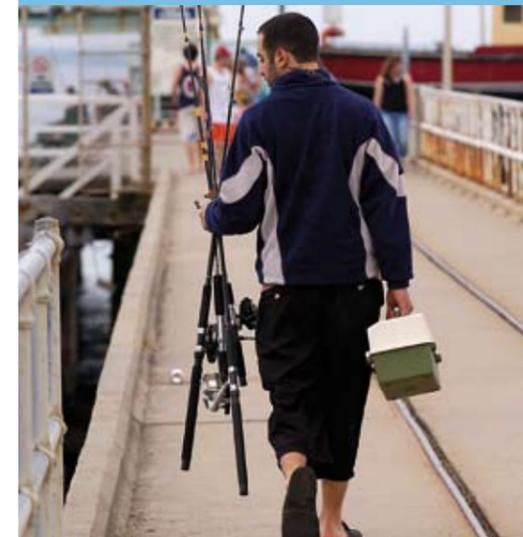
...is to consult broadly with the recreational fishing community to represent the views of recreational fishers in an accurate and timely manner to Government and their agencies, as well as communicate effectively with the recreational fishers of Victoria.

### VRFish Vision

...is to ensure full access to a diverse and healthy Victorian recreational fishery.

### VRFish Mission

...is to represent and advocate the interests of the Victorian Recreational fishing community.



## COMMUNITY

Grow participation, membership and experience

- » Ensure recreational fishing is promoted as a healthy and positive experience.
- » Encourage greater participation from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) communities.
- » Promote participation in recreational fishing to young people and families.
- » Develop retention and recruitment strategies to grow the VRFish membership.



## SUSTAINABILITY

Preserve, grow and enhance the fish resource, infrastructure and access

- » Support sustainable fishing and fisheries through proactive and responsible policy development and projects.
- » Work with fisheries management to identify opportunities for improvement and growth.
- » Build on existing, and develop new conservation partnerships to enhance our role in supporting healthy, resilient recreational fisheries.
- » Advocate for improved fishing infrastructure to support growth in recreational fishing.



## AWARENESS

Strengthen and grow our communication and collaboration

- » Ensure that the recreational fishing community are informed of issues that may impact on recreational fishing.
- » Provide effective communication channels.
- » Develop and refine engagement programs and activities across key communities.
- » Provide sound advice and guidance on strategies and policies which will contribute to a sustainable future Victorian Fishery.



## ACCOUNTABILITY

Ensure VRFish delivers best practice governance and management principles

- » Improve our extension and adoption practices to be more accountable to recreational fishers.
- » Support data collection and research that matches our organisational needs.
- » Implement review process of governance structures.
- » Report regularly to our stakeholders on our actions to ensure a sustainable and vibrant future fishery.



## ADVOCACY

Provide effective representation of our members' interests

- » Promote recreational fishing as a major contributor to economic growth in Victoria, particularly in rural and regional areas.
- » Ensure VRFish members have appropriate best practice and educational resources.
- » Influence policy and direction across all levels of government.
- » Develop further recognition of VRFish as the legitimate conduit of recreational fishers.

## Fishing in Shipping Channels

In early March, VRFish participated in a risk management workshop hosted by the Port of Melbourne Corporation exploring the issue of recreational fishing boats in shipping channels, at times dangerously impeding shipping. VRFish and Port of Melbourne Corporation are committed to collaboratively finding cooperative ways to reduce the risk of unwanted ship/boat interactions and to avoid any risk of a ship's passage being impeded by fishers. There is scope for a number of different cooperative concepts with good prospects of improving the current situation, minimising costs and risks for all bay users.



## Recreational Fishing Forums

Throughout April and May VRFish and Fisheries Victoria hosted thirteen Recreational Fishing Forums across Victoria. The forums proved to be a great success, with a significant number of fishers from different demographics in attendance. Fishers were provided with the opportunity to have their say about recreational fishing in Victoria.

There were a number of great suggestions from fish cleaning table locations and fishing access upgrades to ways to improve the administration of the Recreational Fishing Licence. For a full list of suggestions made by fishers at all the forums please visit [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fisheries/environment-and-community/regional-roundtables](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fisheries/environment-and-community/regional-roundtables)



## Operation Rotor

Last year, Fisheries Victoria launched a new intensive crackdown on illegal fishing in Port Phillip Bay and Western Port known as 'Operation Rotor'. The aim of Operation Rotor was to enforce snapper limits during spring and again in autumn when snapper fishing has a second peak.

The operation began in spring 2011 and concluded after Easter 2012. As part of the operation, Fisheries Officers conducted 5885 inspections and found that the vast majority of fishers were obeying the catch limits, had fishing licences and were doing the right thing. From those

5885 inspections, Fisheries Officers issued 203 on-the-spot fines. Most of the fines were for taking undersize snapper or exceeding the bag limit. Ten more serious infringements are destined for the courts, including three instances where Fisheries Officers seized vessels because fishers had concealed snapper in their boats.

More than 30 Fisheries Officers from around the state participated in Operation Rotor with both undercover and overt inspections on weekends and weekdays. Most fishers were very happy to see Fisheries Officers on the bays enforcing the rules and ensuring the sustainability of



this significant fishery. The low infringement rate indicates that the overwhelming majority of Victorian recreational fishers are obeying the state's fishing regulations.

Fishers are to be congratulated for knowing their catch limits and sticking to them which ensures sustainable fisheries now and into the future.



## VRFish on Facebook



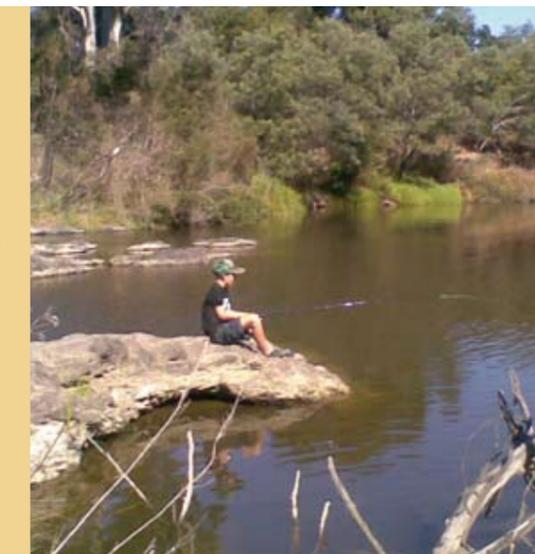
To join in on the conversation and keep up to date with latest news, insights and announcements, Like us on Facebook.

## Health and wellbeing benefits of recreational fishing

As many fishers are well aware, recreational fishing provides numerous health and wellbeing benefits. The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) have released a report reviewing some of the benefits to recreational fishing with almost all respondents rating their quality of life as good or very good. The study found that recreational

fishing provides social, physical and mental benefits with a particular emphasis on relaxation, stress release and family bonding.

Visit <http://www.frdc.com.au/documentlibrary/finalreports/2011-217-DLD.pdf> for more information.





# Making the most of winter fishing

by MICHAEL KETELAAR

Winter in Victoria; wind, rain, hail and sleet – trees become a tangled mass of twigs and the bay resembles a cup of coffee. Rods are stored in the shed, outboards are booked in for service, trailer bearings are re-greased and that annoying loose wire connection on the sounder finally gets fixed. The closest some fishers get to a fish at this time of year is at the local pub with salad and chips.

But things don't need to be this way. For me, winter is an exciting time to fish. When the water is cooler there are a variety of species which become active, as well as the added benefits of much less boat traffic, jet skiers and queues at the boat ramps. Another often overlooked factor is that in winter the wind is primarily from the north- flat inshore fishing and increased water clarity, even if it is on the chilly side. Cold water means slower fish activity, feeding becomes more focussed and things slow down-but they don't stop. Slower retrieves when using soft plastics, less aggressive rips and longer pauses with hard bodied lures and more use of berley to attract the fish to you can all spell success. Think it's cold? I like to think of all those people who live in Canada, Alaska and Northern Europe and then feel decidedly warmer. There's no snow-plough in my street. You do get some smashing blue skies and still calm days, where it's even possible to forget the chills –until you wet your feet at the ramp!

Let me whet the appetite about what is on offer at this time of year.

## Salmon in the surf

Winter brings Australian salmon into the surf at many locations around the state – this is the prime time to connect to a bigger than average fish. Waders, polar fleece and beanies are the order of the day, but a little berley and a paternoster rig baited with pilchard fillets or bluebait cast into the gutters will produce a fish.

You can be in for some great fishing if you find a rising tide that peaks mid-morning, an offshore wind and a cloudless sky. The larger swells mean you may need to cast a little further out to reach the gutters, but this is offset by the wind blowing from behind you which will give you some extra distance.

## Flathead in the shallows

Around the bay, flathead begin to move into the shallower water. Whether this is about some spawning pattern or slightly warmer shallow water I'm not sure, but I do know that this time of the year is a real highlight for me when targeting the sand bars and flats in both Port Phillip and Western Port. You will need smaller soft plastic lures with more wriggle in them to make it work in the chill – slower retrieves and even small subtle hops of the lure across the sand will bring out the animal in the flatties. I cast along a flat rather than across and after letting the lure settle, will wait a few seconds more before shaking the rod tip and pausing, at times for 10 seconds or more. A slow pause lift retrieve will usually do the trick if the lure hasn't been belted already.

## Pinkies and salmon galore!

Inshore reefs load up on the small snapper as the winter bait fish populations soar. It is common to see flocks of gannets diving on bait across the bay and this is a great indicator of the food that's on offer. Snapper in the smaller sizes plague the inner reefs from Brighton right down to Mount Martha, and an early morning session with the plastics sees plenty of chopped tails and trips to the tackle shops.

The most reliable producer for me has always been the 4 inch Berkley Powerbait in Smelt or Pumpkinseed fished on a Darter jig head, although metal vibes 1/2oz in size are finding more of a presence in the tackle box these days. This can be fished for either snapper on the reefs by casting in the direction of your drift or pelted out underneath the seagulls when you see the salmon bubbling along the top. Bream are also a great target when it feels like the fridge door's left open, with peeled prawns and crabs the gun baits in most of our estuaries, especially in the late afternoon.

## Freshwater techniques that work

Shallow water is fishy water, especially when it's in the sun and the water is moving slow enough for it to warm up. Throw in some rocky shores which retain some of the sun's heat and you're really in some prime fishing territory when the thermometer drops. The trout season may be over in the rivers and creeks as spawning is underway, but in the lakes they are still a great target at this time of year, as are the redfin which will school up around drowned timber and along weed beds.

## Cod –go shallow!

Frosty mornings bring the bigger cod into the shallows, their mottled green flanks an ancient solar panel that speeds up the metabolism and helps digestion. Along the Murray, Lower Goulbourn and Ovens Rivers, this is the time of year when a shore-based cod spinning session can really fire as the fish move up into the snags. A slower retrieve with a larger Chatterbait or Spinnerbait that creates plenty of flash is the go – black and purple are my favourites but fluoro will work too. Colorado blades (the rounder style) in silver for clear water or brass for dirty are my favourites.

At times you will need to cast all over a snag and pass the lure a dozen times before the cod fires up, but the reward is well worth the effort. Don't be in a hurry to race upstream either, often it's better to really concentrate on working over a snag rather than race to the next tree. Horizontal trees that break the current and create an eddy that drop into deeper water are prime casting candidates. Bring along a lure retriever too, unless you have deeper pockets than mine.

## Trout – slow down

I try to make a couple of trips out west, and generally focus on two main techniques when things get cold; either trolling along the bays in some of the larger lakes with a mix of Tassie Devils and shallow running lures or cracking out the fly rod and short-stripping a Woolly Bugger or Hamills Killer over a recently inundated bank.

For the fly fisher, you notice there is much less terrestrial insect activity- fewer rises and cleaner car windscreens are the clue. This above surface activity belies what's going on beneath as the nymphs and mudeyes are on the move, along with smaller fry

which seek shelter in the shallow water. A slower retrieve fishing an intermediate clear tip is all that's needed, remembering a heavier leader will give some extra insurance should a larger trout be on the prowl.

Trolling means flat lining as trout revel in the colder conditions and have no problems nailing a lure-trolled shallow. The downrigger stays in the shed as I fish a couple of different lures off the back, a Tassie Devil in yellow or pink about 50 metres back and a hardbody such as a Rapala RT7 on the deeper side a good cast back. You will find the ideal speed to troll by hanging the lure off the rod tip and putting along while you check the action. A side to side wriggle or sway is ideal at somewhere about walking pace. Electric motors have changed the way I troll- just remember to keep the battery charged.

## In the floods, bait is best

Nothing beats a bunch of worms or a juicy scrub worm fished off a light line if the lakes really fill up. There isn't anywhere that's too shallow either- I've caught both trout and redfin in water just deeper than the fish and like to have the bail arm open with the line under a small twig to give the fish as natural a feel as possible.

Grassy bays and shallow flats are the best bet in many of our lakes and early morning sessions or overcast days bring out the best in the fishing. A stainless thermos is never too far away, filled with hot dogs if the kids are with me and coffee if they're not. Nibble tip rods reign supreme in this relaxed style of fishing which can be really pleasant when the conditions suit.



## GET OUT THERE!

Hopefully I've inspired the opening of the shed and the worm hunt (a fork is best for turning over of the compost heap), or grabbing the plastics and giving the renovations a rest. Winter really is a great time to get out on the water.

Be brave, don't pack things away and give winter fishing a bash. You'll be doing the local economies a favour by buying some fuel and raiding the bakery on the way and who knows? You might just catch something!

# Working in partnership with local government

A copy of the speech Minister Powell presented at the VRFish Statewide Forum in Shepparton in March

by **THE HON JEANETTE POWELL MP,**  
MEMBER FOR SHEPPARTON

Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.



It was a pleasure to welcome fishers from across to Victoria to Shepparton for the VRFish Annual Statewide Forum. I commend the decision to hold a state-wide meeting in regional Victoria—the economic contribution to regional communities by recreational fishers cannot be underestimated but along with the obvious economic benefit are the equally important social benefits that fishing brings.

Whilst I don't dangle a line in the water myself I know plenty of people who do. The Powell family grew up fishing and I've seen the friendships that grow out of a mutual love of fishing, I understand the importance of a dad taking his children fishing, I know our sense of community is strengthened when part of a good catch is shared with friends and family. In fact, fishing is an integral part of what it means to live in regional Victoria.

The Victorian Coalition Government understands these benefits and as part of the last election committed a record \$16.2 million towards improving recreational fishing. The challenge lies with government agencies such as Fisheries Victoria and community organisations such as VRFish working closely with local government to establish new facilities and improve access that is

low maintenance but high quality and long lasting. Local government in Victoria offers support to a wide range of community organisations. I would encourage recreational fishers to make applications to the Recreational Fishing Grants Program which has year round grants of up to \$5,000. I recommend VRFish and member organisations

I would encourage recreational fishers to make applications to the Recreational Fishing Grants Program which has year round grants of up to \$5,000

asks to present to local councils on how to improve the quality of and opportunity for recreational fishing in that council area. Many issues are local in nature and I would encourage you to build a relationship with your council. Write to your local councils and ask to make a presentation addressing any specific areas. Remember to sell what you're doing and talk about the economy and the money you are bringing to their town. Eco-

economic development may be something to focus on in a grant application rather than a focus solely on fishing. Any grants approved have to be of value to your local community. I would also encourage you as individuals to engage with your local councillors directly as to how the fishing experience can be improved.

I commend VRFish on holding events such as the statewide forum and being accessible to fishers.

I also hold responsibility as the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in Victoria. I understand that Fisheries Victoria is working on an Aboriginal Fishing strategy which will assist in clarifying Aboriginal customary fishing activity.

Representative bodies play a critical role and particularly from a regional perspective it's vital that organisations such as VRFish engage broadly with recreational fishers through the regional angling clubs. But of equal importance is the need to communicate and engage with grass roots fishers who may not be members or associated with angling clubs. In this regard I commend VRFish on holding events such as the statewide forum and being accessible to fishers. It is always helpful for Government and the sector to have a well informed and responsible organisation presenting a consolidated and considered view on behalf of a sector.

I wish everybody luck with their fishing, and hope everyone enjoys sharing their fishing tales with each other.





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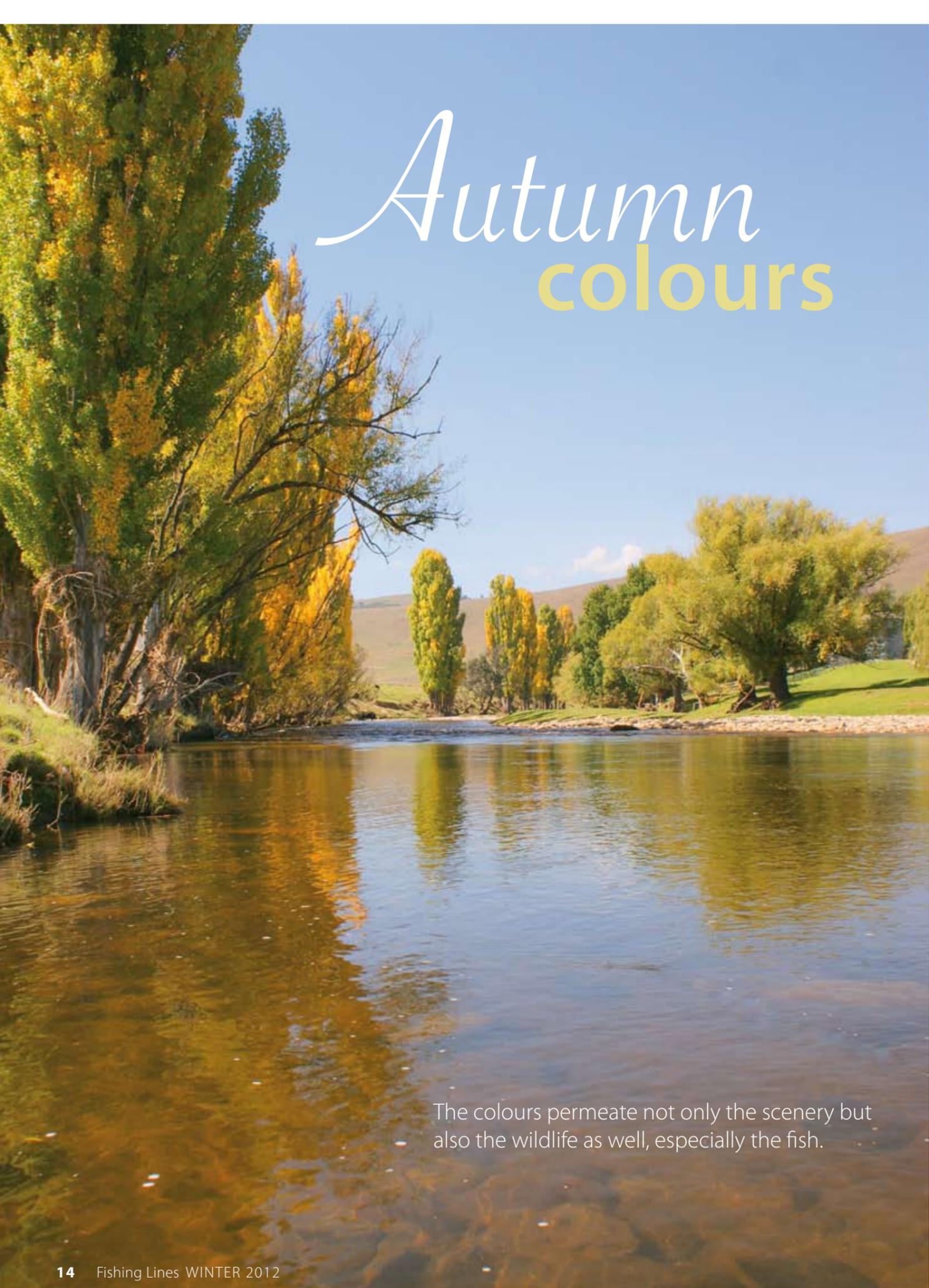
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# Autumn colours



The colours permeate not only the scenery but also the wildlife as well, especially the fish.



By **ROD BOOKER**

One of the many reasons that autumn is such a fantastic time in the Victorian high country is not just the sensational fishing, but the vibrant colours; one could be forgiven for thinking that he has stepped out of his car straight into an artist's palette, so vivid is the vista.

Cool morning fogs hang as would a sheet over an artist's masterpiece, waiting for the morning warmth to reveal the beauty of the day.

The colours permeate not only the scenery but also the wildlife as well, especially the fish. Olive spotted and pink daubed acrobatic rainbows, and golden dark spotted browns, their jewel-like colours sharpen and deepen to truly make them gems of the stream.

The warm autumn sun is not as bright and intense as in the summer. It is more muted which highlights the colours on the streamside trees; the deep yellows, browns and russet reds of the native gums, wattles and willows interspersed with the silver grey burnt-out stumps standing sentinel.

Above-average rains over recent years have cleansed the dust and ash of two decades of drought from the landscape. Stream banks have been scrubbed and scoured clean and regrowth of vegetation has



refreshed the look of the whole countryside. Usually brown autumn grasses are vibrant greens, almost spring-like.

Stream waters flow crystal clear and cool, revealing a wondrous streamscape below. Insects abound and the whole landscape is astir, readying for the coming winter blues. The autumn sky takes on a deep cobalt hue as it reflects off the lazy slick pools, as steel blue waters scythe through ancient hillsides.

Late autumn thunderstorms splash the sky, cold steel grey, the precursor to the violent high country blizzards that have already embarked on their long journey from deep in the southern ocean.

Smokey horizons peer lazily over the sun dappled ridge lines as far off autumn control burns clear the bush of summer fuels.

There is nothing as beautiful as an autumn moon, relieving a lazy sun to shed its lunar glow upon the snaking river as it glides into the dark bush under a north eastern sky.

Fly fishers by nature are at one with this environment as they slowly move from run to pool and riffle

Fly fishers by nature are at one with this environment as they slowly move from run to pool and riffle, breathing in the atmosphere in large gulps, often spending more time gazing at the wonderment than concentrating on the little circle of expanding rings that once contained their fly, "a rise no doubt". The colours enliven the fly fisher's spirit and heighten his senses as he engages with nature for he too knows of the coming winter doldrums.

Purpetti ri pisci ca sarsa –  
polpette di pesce con salsa

## Fishballs in sauce

What do you do with a mixed catch, and when there isn't many of any particular species? I made one of my best fish soups once with a mixed bag of fish caught off a boat, and none of the fish had any commercial value.

### Ingredients

fish, 500g  
grated pecorino cheese, ½ cup  
currants, ½ cup (soaked in water for 30 minutes beforehand)  
pine nuts, ½ cup  
parsley or fresh mint, ½ cup cut finely  
garlic, 2 cloves, chopped finely  
salt and pepper to taste

### Tomato sauce

extra virgin olive oil, ½ cup  
garlic, 1-2 cloves  
red tomatoes, 500g peeled and chopped (or 1 can)  
oregano or basil, (fresh) to taste  
salt to taste

# polpette di pesce con salsa

The other thing you can do is make *purpetti* – this is Sicilian for meatballs, only these are made with fish. *Polpette* is the Italian word and therefore you will be making *polpette di pesce*.

Obviously, you do not have to use a mixture of fish and in my version of fishballs I have used a combination of snapper and flathead (sustainable in Victoria), but you can use any firm, skinless, non-oily fish.

Fish *Polpette* can be made using many combinations of herbs and spices. Around Catania, on the east coast of Sicily, the combination of grated pecorino, garlic and parsley is particularly common and is the same for making meatballs. I like to add grated lemon zest and cinnamon as well – a legacy of the Arabs.



### Method

- \* Cut the fish into chunks and mince using a meat grinder or food processor – I do not like it to be too fine.
- \* Combine all of the ingredients together with your hands – the mixture should be quite firm and hold their shape when moulded into small balls, slightly larger than a golf ball.

### For the tomato sauce:

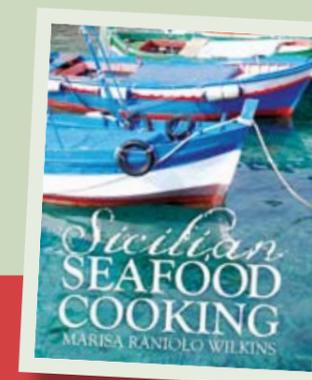
- \* In a saucepan large enough to hold the *polpette*, heat the extra virgin olive oil, add garlic, salt, herbs and red tomatoes.
- \* Heat the salsa to boiling, then lower the heat to simmer and reduce to thicken for about 5 minutes.
- \* Add the *polpette* to the tomato sauce (must be on the boil), cover and braise for 8–10 minutes. Leave to rest in the sauce for at least 5 minutes – this will help them to set.
- \* Serve hot.



### MARISA RANIOLO WILKINS

Marisa is a Sicilian Food Blogger whose interest in food is driven by her desire to explore her cultural origins. She is a first generation Italian-Australian with both her parents born in Sicily. Marisa has always been passionate about fresh, local ingredients and she has an active association with market stall-holders and food producers.

Marisa lives in Melbourne but has also lived in Adelaide, Trieste (North Italy) and Sicily.



# Where is the wood?

## Mapping snags to benefit fish

By JAROD LYON

Have you ever thought about how snags affect rivers and fish? Most fishers love snags. They are great spots to target species such as the elusive Murray Cod, are useful to rest your boat up against and look magnificent under certain light. On the other hand they can also entrap favourite lures and damage the propellers of innocent boaters.

Snags play an essential ecological, chemical and structural role that helps maintain the health of rivers. They provide food, breeding sites and refuge areas for a range of animals throughout the food chain, including microscopic organisms, insects, frogs, fish and birds. Snags help protect the stream bed and bank from erosion, develop scour pools and diversify stream structure, whilst their decay contributes organic matter into the aquatic system.

The environmental benefit of snags also supports social and economic values, such as recreational fisheries and tourism.

Historically, snags have been removed from many Victorian streams to improve navigation, protect infrastructure and reduce the risk of flooding – as was done along 129 km of the Latrobe River in Gippsland, Victoria from 1890 to mid-1940s. Similarly, more than 25,000 snags were removed from the Murray River between Lake Hume and Lake Mulwala in the 1970s and 1980s.

Research has since shown that removing snags has minimal effect on flood mitigation, but instead can impair river bank stability and ecological health. It's thought to be

a major contributing factor in the decline of fish populations, including Murray cod, trout cod, Macquarie perch and Australian bass.

There are many stream restoration programs (past and present) that involve re-introducing snags into streams and revegetating riparian zones to encourage long-term natural input of snags. The Murray River re-snagging program is the largest program of its kind in Australia and operates as a partnership between several government agencies and local fishers. This program involves taking trees cleared for road works and placing them into the Hume-Mulwala section of the Murray River to recreate snag habitat. Similarly, in 2011, the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority placed 120 logs in 4.5 km of the Nicholson River to improve local fish habitat.

Fishing clubs, Landcare groups and other community groups often play a key role or work together with government on these programs. Last year, the Australian Trout Foundation, Marysville Youth Incorporated and staff from the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) planted trees alongside Leary's Creek in Marysville, Victoria

to help rehabilitate habitat and protect the fire-affected native barred galaxias population.

To identify and prioritise river sections where snags need protecting or rehabilitating, baseline information on the amount and distribution of snags in streams is required. DSE Arthur Rylah Institute has been working with Fisheries Victoria, Catchment Management Authorities, the University of Melbourne and Melbourne Water to investigate snag densities in Victorian streams; the results will inform the management decision-making process relating to snag restoration and protection.

Snag densities are being calculated from aerial photographs of streams across Victoria then mapped by staff using hand-held GPS and underwater sonar in selected river sections. This enables aerial snag density values to be "corrected" for errors associated with snags located under tree cover or underwater. So far, snag densities across more than 250 km of streams in northern Victoria have been assessed by staff, with southern Victorian river sections to be completed over the

coming months. This, when combined with aerial data, will result in up-to-date state-wide maps of current snag densities across all Victorian rivers.

Other characteristics of snags are also being investigated, including what influences snag densities and how this relates to stream restoration programs, such as riparian revegetation and bank stabilisation. The relationship between snag densities and fish populations is also being assessed to predict how fish species will respond to differing levels of snag rehabilitation.

The collation of this data will help develop a decision-support tool for managers to make informed and effective decisions on where snags need protecting or rehabilitating to maximise the ecological (e.g. fish community) and social benefits of re-snagging. This will ultimately enable a strong value for money approach for future stream restoration programs.

Fishers understand the link between snag habitats and healthy fish populations; without suitable habitat, streams are unlikely to support healthy fish communities regard-

less of how many fish are stocked or can move into the area.

Fishers are encouraged to build on existing programs that support snag protection and rehabilitation. By creating healthier in-stream habitats, we can encourage healthier aquatic environments and help reverse the decline of native fish in Victorian streams.

For further information please contact Jarod Lyon or Zeb Tonkin at the DSE Arthur Rylah Institute on (03) 9450 8600.



# spotlight On a species

## Gummy Sharks

### - fishing for the future

Gummy sharks (or *Mustelus antarcticus* for the Latin speakers among us) are distributed around the southern half of Australia, from Brisbane through to Western Australia. They are bronze to grey with a pale belly, and are carnivorous, feeding on crustaceans, fish, squid and octopus. Female gummy sharks grow to a length of 175cm, and males to 145cm. They can live for as long as 16 years, giving birth to live young, up to 57 pups per gestation, through a twelve month gestation cycle. Interestingly, the size of litters increase with maternal length, so the bigger the fish, the more pups they gestate\*.

The larger fish (greater than 145cm) that are subject to recreational fisher take are over 90% female. Gummy sharks are only fished commercially in Commonwealth waters- over three kilometres out to sea. As female gummy sharks move into bays and inlets to birth their young, the males are mostly found offshore. The commercial fishery is constrained from operating inshore, so the majority of the commercial take are male fish, thereby avoiding gestating females. The fishing methods utilised by commercial fishers are highly sophisticated, resulting in minimal smaller or very large gummy sharks' capture.

As the recreational fishing peak body, VRFish fully supports practices that protect and enhance the sustainability of Victorian fisheries. Our Code of Conduct (opposite) provides guidelines to look after fisheries resources for the benefit of the environment and future generations of fishers. Gummy sharks are a species that are recognised as one of the best-managed fisheries in Australia, with no perceived sustainability issues. However, as with all species, VRFish is committed to promoting responsible recreational fishing practices, and there are obvious ways to manage this wonderful species and fishery to ensure it retains in healthy stocks.

\*Walker, T.I., 2007, 'Spatial and temporal variation in the reproductive biology of gummy shark *Mustelus antarcticus* harvested off southern Australia', Marine and Freshwater Research, 58, 67-97

#### What can I do to support the currently-exceptional state of the gummy shark fishery?

Male sharks are mainly found in deeper oceanic waters, whilst larger female gummy sharks are found mainly in bays, inlets and inshore areas, so they are more vulnerable to capture by recreational fishers.

Our fishing choices can impact on the contributors to the sustainability of the species. As the large females are the big breeders, they can birth up to 57 pups per gestation. As responsible recreational fishers, we urge you to think about these superb creatures.

To release the larger fish protects your future catch. Consider releasing the large females to further enhance an already well run fishery, knowing that if you release one large female gummy shark you are potentially contributing to fifty more.

Fishing is an extremely popular pastime for many Victorians. For VRFish, it's more than a pastime. It's our passion, and we work to protect its future through managing its sustainability. It is imperative to protect the future catch by ensuring the sustainability of our recreation so our children and our grandchildren can experience this wonderful pursuit that we enjoy today.

#### Adhering to regulations benefits fishing in the future.

Currently, the bag/possession is limited to two gummy and/or school shark, landed whole or as a carcass. The minimum legal size is 45cm (partial length). Measure shark from the rear most gill slit to the base of the tail fin. Measurement can be made on any side of the body.

## Recreational Fishing Code of Conduct



A code of conduct for recreational boat, shore, river, stream and jetty fishers in Victoria.

Recreational fishers have a responsibility to look after fisheries resources for the benefit of the environment and future generations of fishers. Recreational fishers should also show respect for other users of the aquatic environment. This Code of Conduct provides guidelines to minimise conflicts on the water, and should be adopted by all recreational fishers.



Awareness of and compliance with fishing regulations



Always seek permission when entering private property



Respect the rights of other anglers and users



Use established access roads and tracks



Protect the environment



Attend to your fishing gear and value your catch



Carefully return undersized, protected or unwanted catch back to the water



Education - pass on your knowledge



Fish species and other organisms must not be relocated/ transferred into other water bodies



Respect indigenous sites and values

For a full version of the Code of Conduct, please go to [www.vrfish.com.au/Code\\_of\\_Conduct.htm](http://www.vrfish.com.au/Code_of_Conduct.htm)

Marine House Ground Floor 24 York Street South Melbourne Vic 3205  
Ph 03 9686 7077 Fax 03 9682 1066 Email [info@vrfish.com.au](mailto:info@vrfish.com.au) Web [www.vrfish.com.au](http://www.vrfish.com.au)



# Salt water *in my veins*

By **ANDREW VIBERT**

Very early in my life I was introduced to water. My first recollection as a child is of being carried down sand dunes in very thick fog to be shown the sea. We were at Point Lonsdale and the old fog horn was going off. Mum told me years later that I was three. Every year from then on our family holiday consisted of two weeks at the beach, always the last two weeks of January, anywhere from Safety Beach to Rosebud on the Mornington Peninsula. We holidayed with other families from Shepparton (180km north of Melbourne) and as kids who lived so far from the coast, we spent every available hour in, on or near the water.

One year as dad and I were walking along the beach, we saw a man with a mask and snorkel leaving the water and thought

we should give it a go. Next Christmas we all got them for gifts. I remember the first time in the shallows the excitement of a whole new world under the surface. I was seven years of age.

With practice, over the next few years we ventured further out, where the bottom changed from sand to a light weed to eventually some very basic reef (we were still in only 2 to 3m of water). We found many interesting things- octopus in cans, crabs, and small stingrays. Our discoveries eventually lead to us finding fish. Flathead and flounder seemed to be everywhere. It was not long before we had a broom handle with a nail in it. Not much was ever caught but it was my first attempt at spearing fish.

I remember purchasing my first spear gun in Shepparton (who would have thought?) after looking at it for months and saving pocket money. That summer it was a quick progression to spearing fish and having meals of flathead and flounder.

At 16, dad introduced me to a local ambulance officer who was in charge of the search and rescue squad. He offered to give me a go on scuba tanks in the local pool. I was a natural. I actually joined the rescue squad and ended up doing their entire diver training for the next few years, long before any form of dive qualification existed. On one rescue/recovery I got spooked in dirty water and that was the last dive I did with the rescue squad.

I discovered cars and for the next thirty years they were my passion. I established and ran a successful Japanese engine importing business for 25 years. I also rallied cars for 24 years, winning the Victorian 2wd title in 2003. Eventually, I lost my passion for cars and also closed the business. I needed a fresh interest.

I discovered Southern Freedivers on the internet and decided to get back into spear fishing. I dug out the old gear and made a trip to a specialist store in Melbourne where I discovered how much it had all changed. I purchased new gear and attended my first club meeting. I loved the camaraderie of Southern Freedivers and the wealth of experience available within the club. Three years

I loved the camaraderie of Southern Freedivers and the wealth of experience available within the club.

later, I am vice president and attend every meeting. I have won several club championship classes and dive with the club at every opportunity. My wife and I enjoy the occasional overseas snorkeling trip. In fact, family holidays still revolve around salt water.

I look forward to many more years of spearfishing with Southern Freedivers and am also looking forward to completing a couple of musts- swimming with whale sharks and swimming with a great white shark with Rodney Fox who was attacked by a great white shark in December 1963.

Living in Shepparton (2.5 hours from salt water) is a bit of a problem with such a love of salt water. My 2007 ute now has 220,000km on it. It's just as well I still enjoy driving.



## About Southern Freedivers

The Southern Freedivers Inc. is a not-for-profit spearfishing club based in the South Eastern suburbs of Melbourne. At around ninety financial members, we are a small but growing organisation which prides itself on safe, selective and sustainable spearfishing. In recent years, our representation has grown beyond the Melbourne metropolitan area, with the Southern Freedivers now affiliated with VRFish, as well as holding a seat on the Statewide Recreational Fishing Roundtable Forum, giving us the opportunity to positively contribute to Victoria's recreational fishing future. Our membership ranks also contain some of Victoria's preminent

fisheries researchers and marine scientists who liaise with Fisheries Victoria on several key initiatives such as Victorian Abalone and Southern Rock Lobster management.

The club is very proactive when it comes to spearfisher and snorkeler safety, with recent projects including the roll out of dive flag awareness signs at several key Victorian boat ramps, the inclusion of a diver flag safety advertisement in the 2010/2011 Recreational Fishing Guide and participation in the Australian-wide 'Spearsafe' initiative.

Club meetings are held at 8pm on the first Wednesday of every month all year round at Dandenong Football Club, clubrooms, Bennet St, Dandenong. First timers are welcome, so just turn up and get involved! Our website is [www.southernfreedivers.org.au](http://www.southernfreedivers.org.au)

# Fishcare Victoria- We Fish, We Care



By SAMANTHA STRONG

Mornington-Western Port Fishcare group prides itself on the diverse range of educational activities it is involved with in the region, which stretches from Inverloch to the Patterson River. Volunteers have been providing educational and interactive clinics and workshops to a range of school-aged children since the late 1990's. When undertaking this important role, the group makes the most of positive links with Fisheries Victoria, local angling clubs and VRFish, relying on RFL funding and grants to achieve their goals.

Volunteers visit remarkable places as part of their educational duties with Fishcare. Twice a year, a number of volunteers take young people out to fish in Port Phillip Bay by charter boat as part of the Portsea Children's Camp school holiday activities. The experience provides outdoor recreational opportunities to those who would otherwise miss out due to their life circumstances, whether it be living in a remote area, being affected by fires or suffering family breakdown.

Summer is a busy time for the group, with involvement in the Department of Sustainability and Environment's 'Summer by the Sea Program' which takes them around the region. In a series of workshops at nearby piers or beaches, children are taught to tie knots and rigs, cast and then try their luck at catching a fish. Often time is spent skilfully disentangling lines after enthusiastic

efforts lead to some mighty tangles.

When fish are caught, there is a real sense of joy seeing faces light up. This is one reason why volunteers are so keen to give many hours of their time to share their knowledge and passion for recreational fishing.

Connecting with people from diverse backgrounds is something Fishcare works towards, as part of its role to introduce the fun of responsible fishing as a healthy activity between people of all ages and abilities. A key part of teaching young people how to fish is an introduction to the aspects of fishing regulations and impacts of fishing on the environment. The group often works with local Fisheries Officers at events and recently the group attended an information display with Fisheries Officers at Venus Bay, where hundreds of interested visitors and locals obtained information on local recrea-



Fishcare Victoria is a community-based non government organisation which promotes responsible and sustainable attitudes and practices amongst recreational anglers and the wider community. Our motto 'We Fish, We Care' promotes respect and responsibility for the conservation of our aquatic resources for the future.



tional fishing issues and opportunities.

Volunteering plays an important role in providing communities with connections to government and other not-for-profit agencies in managing environment and community services. Making time to contribute is rewarding for those who do join groups, not only from making social connections themselves, but because they give back to others.

New volunteers are always welcome to join Fishcare and share their passion for recreational fishing with others. For further enquiries, contact Jeff Green on 9789 2254 or fishcare.mwp@bigpond.com.



# Rock fisher survives near drowning at Pyramid Rock

By LAURA DUNENS

On Saturday 14 January 2012, Victor Fan set out to a favourite rock fishing site near Pyramid Rock on Phillip Island. Hours later, Mr Fan was plucked unconscious from the ocean by a team of rescuers and placed aboard an air ambulance, being transported to the Alfred Hospital.

Mr Fan had been rock fishing in the area for years, but was caught unaware when he turned his back to the sea for just a moment, and was swept in.

"I had turned around to get some bait," Mr Fan said. "A big swell came and pulled me back into the water; I didn't see it coming, it was very quick."

Mr Fan knew to float to conserve his energy, and to try to keep away from the rocks. However, his swimming skills were not strong and, with no lifejacket, he struggled in the water. The alarm was raised by a nearby fisherman and a police patrol rushed to assist, with one police officer jumping into the water to reach Mr Fan. He was soon joined by a Fisheries Officer, but strong waves crashing onto the rocks prevented them from getting Mr Fan back to shore.

A lifeguard and volunteer lifesaver from Woolamai Beach patrol were sent to help with the rescue effort, while the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter and air ambulance were deployed. Armed with rescue equipment, the lifeguard jumped in to assist. Using a rescue tube to secure Mr Fan, the group were eventually able to get their patient onto a nearby rock shelf where paramedics were waiting. Lifesavers and paramedics worked on an unconscious Mr Fan for some time, before he was winched aboard the air ambulance, and transported to the Alfred Hospital. Incredibly, he was discharged from hospital after three days and has since made a full recovery.

In an effort to prevent similar incidents, Mr Fan has joined forces with Life Saving Victoria to share his story and assist with the 'Don't put your Life on the Line' rock fishing safety campaign, which urges rock fishers to wear a life jacket.

"I was very lucky, but not everyone is," Mr Fan said. "Put your safety first; have a checklist and make sure everything is ok before you go. Check weather conditions, wear a

life jacket and don't go alone."

Rock fishing is considered to be one of the most dangerous aquatic sports in Australia; since 2000, there have been on average eight rock fishing related deaths per year. Life Saving Victoria Manager of Research and Injury Prevention, Dr Bernadette Matthews, said last year, almost 10 per cent of coastal drowning deaths in Australia were related to rock fishing.

"In 2009, we had three rock fishing drowning deaths in Victoria. Before that, we saw a spate of five drowning deaths from 2005-2007," she said. "In all Victorian cases, the victim has been male, typically aged between 35-59 years, from a non-English speaking background and were not wearing a life jacket at the time."

Dr Matthews said, "wearing a life jacket is one of the key safety messages for rock fishers."

"In April 2012, a rock fisher at Frazer Park, NSW, was saved after being swept off a notorious rock shelf, thanks to the life jacket he was wearing. He was able to use the whistle attached to his lifejacket to attract attention of local residents, who contacted emergency services. His life jacket kept him buoyant as fatigue and hypothermia set in. He spent an hour in the water before the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter reached him and air-lifted him to safety. Without a life jacket, it's likely this man's experience would have ended in tragedy."

"It is also important to never fish alone – make sure that someone is looking out for you around the water, to raise the alarm if something goes wrong."

## Rock fishing safety tips

- > Always wear a life jacket when rock fishing.
- > Always check weather conditions and tides before going rock fishing.
- > Never fish by yourself.
- > Never fish in exposed areas during rough seas; find a calmer spot.
- > Don't turn your back on the sea.
- > Inform others of your plans, including where you're going and when you plan to return.
- > Wear appropriate non-slip footwear, light clothing and head protection.

"In all Victorian cases, the victim has been male, typically aged between 35-59 years, from a non-English speaking background and were not wearing a life jacket at the time."



For more safety tips visit [www.watersafety.vic.gov.au](http://www.watersafety.vic.gov.au) or download the Victorian Water Safety Guide app (search for 'water safety' in the App Store or Google Play).

# Vale Allan Stephens



The Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club's veteran honorary member Allan Stephens recently passed away, some two weeks short of his ninety-ninth birthday. Over the last 10 years, Allan was an iconic and popular clubman amongst members of all ages at APYAC. Always entertaining and positive, Allan with glass ½ half full (usually with red wine) would say he made it into his ninety-ninth year of life.

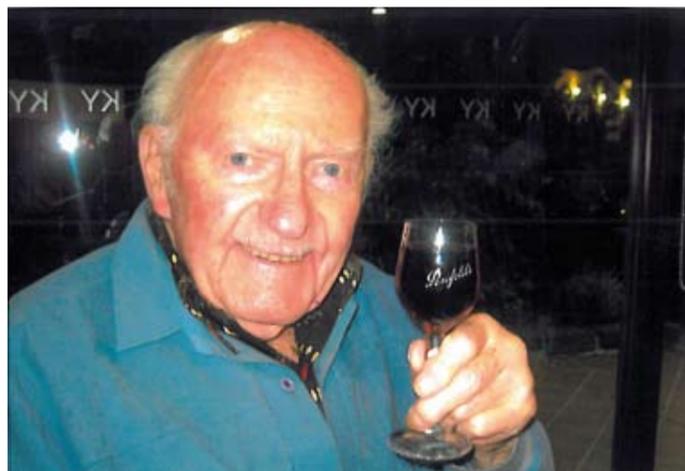
Ninety nine sits rather well with Allan as he resembled an ageing Sir Donald Bradman whose test batting average of course was ninety nine. To verify Allan's honesty, the biggest barramundi that he landed up north came in at ninety nine cms- just one short of the magical meter. Despite being ten years younger, the late Jack Pompey always brought a smile to Allan's face when he addressed him with 'How's young Allan today?' The answer always came back 'Never better, Jack; good food, good wine and most of all good company.'

As a young lad, Allan traveled in a limo with Dame Nellie Melba. He remembered being told not to speak unless spoken to by this buxom lady with colorful feathers protruding from her large hat. Living near Flemington racecourse, he slipped under the fence to witness the great Phar Lap in full flight. In the WW2 years, he was given a tip by two Queensland diggers who told him to look out for Bernborough when he headed south- of course history will tell us the galloper won fifteen in a row! Allan also acted as a bagman for bookies at the show-ground trots, and as a fitter and turner made ammunition for the war effort.

What about the fishing? Allan told stories of fishing on a charter boat called "The Reliance", drifting for flathead in the Port Melbourne area with nearby mates. However, after moving to Beaumaris our paths met while launching our tinnies off the beach at Ricketts Point.

He kept a meticulous diary over the years, which one year recorded over 200 King George Whiting and as little as two or three fish the next season.

Until the ripe old age of eighty eight Allan would unload his 2.5 meter (8ft) Savage dinghy from the roof of his rusty Mazda 626, load up with fishing and safety gear and head out under the power of his reliable 2 hp Seagull outboard. He caught some large snapper, flathead and many other species, but whiting were his first choice. He kept a meticulous diary over the years, which one year recorded over 200 King George Whiting and as little as two or three fish the next season. Having such a tiny boat meant that Allan often had to do a "reconnaissance run" to check the wind and weather at the water's edge rather than from his home in Beaumaris. It was on one of these occasions that he was approached by police in the divvy van well before sunrise on the foreshore. The officers greeted Allan, 'good morning' and asked Allan what he might be doing there at such a time? He quickly replied 'I'm going fishing.' The police were not quite sure as they queried this little old man in pajamas. Allan fished from 88-90 with yours truly in my 4 meter tinnie which he thought was huge after his little dinghy. He enjoyed the social side of the APYAC after discontinuing his annual trips to Darwin in winter. After Allan's passing I fished on his favourite mark off the Teahouse at Beaumaris with APYAC club mate Warren Davey- we bagged some lovely pinkie snapper. Always a true gentleman it appears that Allan is still looking after his fishing mates!



... 'How's young Allan today?' The answer always came back 'Never better, Jack; good food, good wine and most of all good company.'

Just imagine having this view at your next company function, wedding reception, product launch, birthday party, school reunion or whatever takes your fancy!

The Club is available, subject to any prior bookings, for private functions, weddings, engagements, birthdays, corporate launches and seminars, party's, product launches, filming, ladies days, advertising, sportsman's nights, and fund raising Monday to Wednesday and on Saturday Evenings.

Phone our Functions Supervisor Jo Kerr at the Club on 9690 5530 or e-mail her at [jo@apyac.org.au](mailto:jo@apyac.org.au).

# on the water



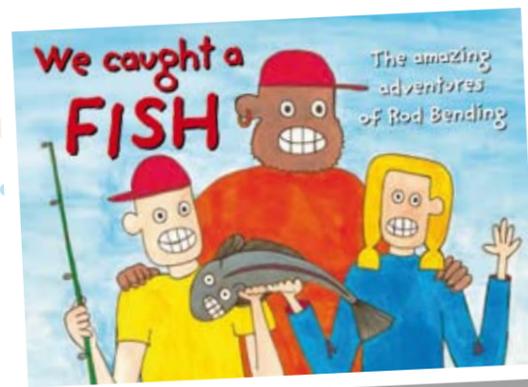
## San Remo Fishing Village Festival

VRFish were delighted to take part in the San Remo Fishing Village Festival in March. The foreshore was filled with families celebrating San Remo's rich history as a fishing town. It was fantastic to have a chat with so many fishers, both local and holiday-makers.



It's never too early to try fishing...

According to this little one's family. Although Nathan doesn't look too impressed about being used as a rod holder!



## Giveaway Time!

**W**e Caught a Fish and A Day in the Boat showcase the amazing adventures of Rod Bending, a fictional(ish) character created by David Walsh, owner of Rod Bendings World in Inverloch. The books follow the adventures of Rod Bending and his niece and nephew as they experience fishing for the first time. With basic baits and rigs guide on the back cover plus a page for kids to paste a photo of their first fish, it's a great introduction to fishing for all kids aged 2 to 6.

Thanks to our friends at Rod Bendings World ([www.rodbendingsworld.com](http://www.rodbendingsworld.com)) we have a set of these gorgeous books to give away- to go into a prize draw send your name and postal address to [holly@vrfish.com.au](mailto:holly@vrfish.com.au) with 'Rod Bendings Book Giveaway' in the subject line. Competition closes 31 August 2012.



## Fishing Lines Magazine

Now available online

**W**e know that fishers are busy and that not everyone gets the chance to sit and read *Fishing Lines* from cover to cover. We also know that *Fishing Lines* doesn't always survive the tackle box. That's why we offer Victorian fishers the opportunity to access *Fishing Lines* online. By registering to receive *Fishing Lines* online, you will have instant access to a range of articles about fishing in Victoria, as well as information about the activities and policies of your peak body, VRFish. You'll also be helping the environment by cutting down the paper waste.

Visit [www.vrfish.com.au](http://www.vrfish.com.au) and register to receive *Fishing Lines*. When the magazine is next produced we will send you an email with a link to access *Fishing Lines* magazine.

45% of *Fishing Lines* readers requested online access to *Fishing Lines* magazine in our 2011 Reader Survey.



## Share your story

**A**n important part of our role as your peak body is creating mechanisms for communication across the Victorian recreational fishing community. We welcome your contributions- if you would like to publicise an event or share some club news, please contact Holly Cardamone via email at [holly@vrfish.com.au](mailto:holly@vrfish.com.au) and we'll help get your message to a potential audience of 721,000 recreational fishers.



## Rubicon Atlantic Salmon

VRFish State Council delegate Les Penrose sent us this fantastic shot of his grandson, Daniel Jennings, with a 5.8kg Atlantic Salmon taken from the Rubicon.



## Massive Murray Cod delights a new fisher

**M**atthew Park, 11 years old, was thrilled to land this amazing fish. On the same weekend, Matthew caught his first trout, and on the following Monday was the talk of the playground.

# Fishing in Victoria

– something for everyone

Victorian fishers are a blessed lot – the fisheries across the State provide ample opportunities to ply your skill and feed your family.

Over 721,000 Victorians share a passion for recreational fishing, and there are fishing clubs scattered all over the State catering to fishers whether they be hooked on feeding 'old man' cod or like to chase the big reds as they come into our bays to spawn.

There are many reasons a large segment of VRFish members belong to fishing clubs:

- > Fishing clubs give fishers access to a fantastic group of people who love to talk about fishing as much as they do.
- > They give a sense of contributing to the local community.
- > Club membership provides an opportunity to participate in social and competitive events.
- > They give the ability to improve fishing by learning from more experienced fishers or to share your own knowledge.
- > Club membership also provides a means to contribute to the political landscape of fishing, and have your say in issues that affect you and your favourite fisheries.

Contact one of our member clubs opposite for more information.

## Member directory

### Albert Park Yachting & Angling Clubs Association

PO Box 11, Albert Park VIC 3206  
Contact: Peter Taylor  
Phone: 03 96905530  
Email: info@apyac.org.au  
Web: www.apyac.org.au

### Association of Geelong & District Angling Clubs

130 Coppards Rd, Whittington VIC 3219  
Contact: John Hotchin  
Phone: 03 52486817  
Email: jhotchin@bigpond.net.au  
Web: www.fishinggeelong.com

### Australian Anglers Association (VIC)

23 Queenscliff Rd, Newcomb VIC 3219  
Contact: Tomothy Hose  
Phone: 0428 521 449  
Web: www.aaavic.org

### Australian National Sportfishing Association (VIC)

46 Pitt St West Footscray 3012  
Contact: Wayne Zita  
Phone: 0425 756511  
Email: waynez62@hotmail.com  
Web: www.ansavic.com.au

### Ballarat & District Anglers Association

PO Box 163, Ballarat Mail Centre VIC 3353  
Contact: Chris Doody  
Phone: 03 8647 2040 / 0428 304004  
Email: chrisdoody@bigpond.com

### Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron

PO Box 45, Black Rock VIC 3193  
Contact: Paul Morgan  
Phone: 03 9598 5156  
Email: bmys@bigpond.com.au  
Web: www.bmys.com.au



### Boating Victoria

2/77 Beach Road, Sandringham VIC 3191  
Contact: Ian Fox  
Phone: 03 95970066  
Email: boating@yachtingvictoria.com.au  
Web: www.boatingvictoria.com.au

### Council of Victorian Fly Fishing Clubs

13 Fernlea St, Traralgon VIC 3844  
Contact: Rod Booker  
Phone: 03 5174 4606  
Email: rbharcourt9@gmail.com

### Far West Anglers Association

571 Deakin Ave, Mildura VIC 3500  
Contact: Colin Mansell  
Phone: 0427 210 373  
Email: mansellcj@ncable.com.au

### Fishcare Victoria

574 Main Street, Bairnsdale VIC 3875  
Contact: Jenny Allitt  
Phone: 03 51520456  
Web: www.fishcare.org.au

### Game Fishing Association of Victoria

PO Box 408, Mentone VIC 3194  
Contact: Kevin Oates  
Phone: 0428 783 228  
Email: secretary@gfav.com.au  
Web: www.gfav.com.au

### Gippsland Angling Clubs Association

PO Box 293, Nicholson VIC 3882  
Contact: John Bourke  
Phone: 03 5155 1505

### Goulburn Valley Association of Angling Clubs

18 Ross Street, Nagambie VIC 3608  
Contact: Wally Cubbin  
Phone: 03 5794 2744/0428 942 744  
Email: wcubbin@bigpond.net.au

### Howqua Angling Clubs Fish Protection Association

4 Links Drive, Rowville VIC 3178  
Contact: Gary O'Donohue  
Phone: 03 9780 2547/0400 063793

### Metropolitan Anglers Association

237 Military Road, Avondale Heights VIC 3034  
Contact: William Richards  
Phone: 03 9337 5113  
Email: fishomaa@hotmail.com

### Midland & North Central Angling Association

PO Box 366, Goldern Square VIC 3555  
Contact: Linda Moody  
Phone: 0428 518 818  
Email: lindamoody55@yahoo.com.au

### Mid Northern Association of Angling Clubs

12 Lockwood Street, Birchip VIC 3483  
Contact: Alan Digby  
Phone: 03 5492 2822  
Email: alasmue@hotmail.com

### Native Fish Australia

PO Box 162, Doncaster VIC 3108  
Contact: Graeme Creed  
Phone: 03 9848 2285  
Email: gcreed@optusnet.com.au  
Web: www.nativefish.asn.au

### North East Angling Association

PO Box 3229, Albury NSW 2640  
Contact: Stafford Simpson  
Phone: 02 6040 6987  
Email: vk2ast@tpg.com.au

### Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria

GPO Box 1705, Melbourne VIC 3001  
Contact: Stephen Fordyce  
Email: sdfv@sdfv.org.au  
Web: www.sdfv.org.au

### South Gippsland Angling Clubs Association

PO Box 32, Tooradin VIC 3980  
Contact: Max Fletcher  
Phone: 03 5941 3754  
Email: mfletche2@westnet.com.au

### South West District Association of Angling Clubs

13 Marfell Road, Warrnambool VIC 3280  
Contact: Robert O'Neill  
Phone: 03 5561 5596  
Email: robertoneill7@bigpond.com

### Southern Freedivers

PO Box 213, Brunswick VIC 3056  
Contact: Clint Engel  
Phone: 0409 613 804  
Email: info@brimbosports.com  
Web: http://southernfreedivers.org.au

### Victorian Fishing Charters Association

PO Box 125 Patterson Lakes VIC 3197  
Contact: John Willis  
Phone: 0407 053 484  
Email: john@beachmarine.com.au

### Victorian Piscatorian Council

PO Box 248, Kerang VIC 3579  
Contact: George Hardwick  
Phone: 03 5457 6222  
Web: http://home.vicnet.net.au/~vpca/welcome.htm

### Wimmera Anglers Association

4 Decastella Drive, Horsham VIC 3400  
Contact: Ken Flack  
Phone: 03 5382 4453  
Email: flackyk@gmail.com

# GONE FISHING



**DON'T PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE**



**ALWAYS  
WEAR A PFD**



**NEVER  
FISH ALONE**



**STAY ALERT!  
CONDITIONS  
CHANGE**

**IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 000**